UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.3/47/6
11 November 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Forty-seventh session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 95

NARCOTIC DRUGS

Letter dated 10 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to state that, in cooperation with the French Ministry of the Interior, the United Arab Emirates hosted from 3 to 8 October 1992 an International Conference of Drug Control Experts that was attended by experts from 30 countries and nine regional organizations. I transmit to you herewith, in Arabic and English, the recommendations adopted by the Conference at its closing session. I should be grateful if you would have the text of the recommendations circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 95.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Recommendations adopted by the International Conference of Drug Control Experts held at Abu Dhabi from 3 to 8 October 1992

An International Conference of Drug Control Experts, under the patronage of His Excellency Major-General Hamouda Bin Ali, Minister of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates, and jointly organized by the Ministry of the Interior of the French Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates, represented by the Abu Dhabi Police Department, was held in the main auditorium at Abu Dhabi Police Department from 3 to 8 October 1992.

Credit for the organization of the Conference is largely due to His Excellency Major-General Hamouda Ben Ali, Minister of the Interior, on whose instructions work proceeded with the French authorities and the greatest efforts were made for the proper conduct of the work of the Conference.

The organizational aspects of the conference were completed under the supervision of His Excellency Brigadier Saghir Ghobash, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, who also issued invitations to countries and international organizations, presided at the opening session and declared the conference open on behalf of His Excellency the Minister of the Interior.

His Excellency Colonel Thani Obeid Al-Rumaithi, Director-General of the Abu Dhabi Police Department, assumed responsibility for the formation of a preparatory committee and served as President of the Conference. His constant guidance of the work of the Conference had the most positive impact in ensuring its eventual success. He maintained close contact with the French authorities in matters relating to the preparation of the Conference and the work of the subcommittees of the preparatory committee.

The opening session of the Conference began at 9 a.m. on Saturday, 3 October 1992. His Excellency Brigadier Saghir Ghobash, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, served as presiding officer of the session, and statements were made by the representatives of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) and by His Excellency the Ambassador of France and His Excellency Mr. Ottavi, representative of the French Government. The session concluded with an address by the President of the Conference, His Excellency Colonel Thani Obeid Al-Rumaithi, Director-General of the Abu Dhabi Police Department.

The work of the Conference covered five major working sessions and the presentation of country reports. The recommendations adopted by the participants and set forth hereunder emerged from the deliberations of these sessions and from discussion of the working papers presented. They were endorsed by the representatives of the following 30 countries which participated in the Conference: Australia, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, France,

Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Representatives of the following international organizations also attended the Conference and endorsed the recommendations: the secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA), the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA), the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the International Union for Mental Health, the National Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency of the United States of America (NCPA), the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Pride International and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP).

The participants, representatives of countries and international organizations, deem it appropriate that these recommendations should be submitted to Governments and to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and that Governments and organizations should be urged to promote their implementation at the earliest possible opportunity.

1. The participants convey their appreciation, admiration and deep thanks to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates, to His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister, and to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and they commend the remarkable progress achieved by the United Arab Emirates under their discerning leadership.

2. The participants further convey their sincere thanks, their appreciation and their gratitude to His Excellency Major-General Hamouda Bin Ali, Minister of the Interior, for his kind patronage of the Conference and his supervision of the State authorities concerned in the organization of the Conference in the outstanding manner achieved. They also express their sincere thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Brigadier Saghir Ghobash, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, who presided at the opening session and by constantly monitoring the work of the Conference contributed to its resounding success.

The participants convey their deep thanks, appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Colonel Thani Obeid Al-Rumaithi, Director-General of the Abu Dhabi Police Department and President of the Conference, for placing the staff of the Department at the disposal of the Conference organizers to such good effect and for the warm reception and liberal generosity that they encountered.

The participants express their sincere thanks and admiration to the preparatory committee, to which credit is due for the unmatched success of the meticulously executed professional and social programmes, and to all the administrators and officers who attended to the comfort of the participants and much facilitated their task.

3. The participants also convey their deep thanks and gratitude to the Ministry of the Interior of the French Republic, which collaborated with the Ministry of the Interior of the United Arab Emirates in the organization of the Conference in such a way as to have a far-reaching impact on the success of its work.

4. The participants express their great appreciation and admiration to the news media of the United Arab Emirates and to the international media which gave full coverage to the work of the Conference and thereby promoted the achievement of many of its goals.

Accordingly, the International Conference of Drug Control Experts held at Abu Dhabi from 3 to 8 October 1992 issued the following recommendations:

I. International cooperation

1. Believing that narcotic drugs constitute an international problem that cannot be addressed in the context of a single country or a single region and one that must be understood in a global international perspective and regarded as a problem that threatens all humanity, undermines its values and ideals and jeopardizes the economy, health, culture, society and security, the participants recommend that all States and international agencies and organizations should come together and cooperate to avert this danger by exchanging information and experience and by organizing local, regional or international meetings and conferences for this purpose.

2. The participants recommend that all States should accede to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Vienna Convention on Drug Trafficking, and they further urge States to enact appropriate legislation to help prevent money laundering.

3. The participants recommend that the Conference should establish a committee of representatives of Interpol, ICPA, ICAA, Pride International, UNIDCP and non-governmental organizations to maintain contact with countries and with other agencies and organizations with a view to holding annual international conferences similar to the International Conference of Drug Control Experts.

4. The participants recommend that international organizations such as Interpol, UNIDCP and others, as well as certain developed countries capable of doing so, should be asked to help the developing countries, particularly in training in various drug control fields.

II. Law enforcement and legislation

1. The participants recommend that States and international organizations should make greater efforts to train drug enforcement officers and enable them to develop the best ways and means of detecting bands of smugglers and illicit drug trafficking.

2. The participants recommend that drug enforcement agencies should be allowed to play a greater role in preventive programmes on the dangers of drugs in light of the information and experience available to such agencies that can be useful in this field.

3. The participants recommend that Interpol, UNIDCP and the Customs Cooperation Council should offer training courses on techniques of investigating crimes involving funds of suspect origin.

III. Prevention

1. The participants recommend that increased attention should be given to religious motivation, that the Islamic creed and the teachings of Islam should be the major focus of all preventive and educational programmes in Islamic countries and that, to achieve the best results, the Islamic religion should have a central role in drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes.

2. The Conference recommends that an international conference of women should be convened at a suitable venue to discuss issues of health, youth, prenatal health and child care so that children may grow up averse to drugs and intoxicants.

3. The focus should be on prevention and enforcement programmes and on the health hazards of drugs, and drug abuse should be studied in schools and by young people.

4. The participants recommend that the countries that produce and consume narcotic substances and drugs should convene an international conference for concerted action to protect societies from the dangers of drug abuse and enable the developing countries to profit from the experience of the developed countries. The programmes of such a conference should include many of the fields relating to prevention, legislation, the activities of law enforcement agencies, education, money laundering, and the like. The participating affluent countries should finance such a conference, which the participants propose should be held on an annual basis in one of the developing countries.

IV. Treatment and rehabilitation

1. The participants recommend that all countries, and especially the developing countries, should establish up-to-date treatment centres providing modern programmes of treatment and cultural, educational and vocational training programmes.

2. The participants recommend that religious institutions should play a central role in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

3. The Conference recommends that research work should continue to develop more successful methods of treatment and rehabilitation.

4. The participants recommend that research on the transmission of AIDS through the use of non-sterile hypodermics should continue, that the subject should be central to AIDS prevention programmes even in countries that are not at present exposed to the spread of the disease, and that treatment services should be provided to all who join such programmes until they recover from addiction or drug dependency.